



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

MAR 31 2017

Alex Birchfield, Senior Ecologist
ESA Section 7 lead and FCPP-NMEP BO Implementation Coordinator
Western Region
Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320
Denver, Colorado 80202-3050

**RE: Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Mine Energy Project
Biological Opinion Annual Report
Status of USEPA actions related to RPMs and Terms and Conditions in 2016
Consultation # 02ENNM00-2014-F-0064**

Dear Mr. Birchfield:

Pursuant to RPM 5 a. through f. of the Biological Opinion USEPA as the lead agency for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewals for APS Four Corners Power Plant (NN0000019) and NTEC Navajo Mine (NN0028193) took the following actions in 2016:

USEPA prepared draft response to comments documents addressing comments it received during the public comments period following the public notice of the proposed permits in 2015. Final Response to Comments (RTC) documents will accompany the final issued permits, which are expected to be issued in 2017.

Pursuant to RPM 5 f. USEPA plans to include the use of sufficiently sensitive methods to monitor pollutants including selenium and mercury in the final issued permits.

RPM 5 a. through c., will be implemented during the next permit cycle about 5 years after the final issuance of the current proposed permits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Smith".

David Smith, Manager
NPDES Permits Section (WTR-2-3)